

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00010 172223Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 /070 W
-----034881 172233Z /64

P 172000Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1221
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0010

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: CASTONGUAY TO HEAD PRE-REFERENDUM COMMITTEE

REF: 1977 QUEBEC 0466

1. FEDERALIST FORCES HAVE SELECTED CLAUDE CASTONGUAY AS PRESIDENT OF THE PRE-REFERENDUM COMMITTEE WHICH WILL COORDINATE FEDERALIST STRATEGY IN THE UPCOMING REFERENDUM DEBATE (SEE REFTEL). CASTONGUAY, A FORMER MINISTER IN THE BOURASSA GOVERNMENT, IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE CO OF CANADA, A TORONTO-BASED FIRM, AND PRESIDENT OF THE LAURENTIAN FUND, INC. OF QUEBEC CITY. HIS NAME HAD FIGURED PROMINENTLY LAST FALL ON LISTS OF POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR THE PROVINCIAL LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP. CASTONGUAY WAS ELECTED "UNANIMOUSLY" BUT, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HAD TO BEAT OUT TWO OTHER CANDIDATES FOR THE JOB -- ROGER BEAUDRY, FORMER RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL, AND BRIAN MULRONEY, THE FORMER CANDIDATE FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FEDERAL PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN 1976.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00010 172223Z

2. MARCEL MASSE, A FORMER UNION NATIONALE CABINET MINISTER, WAS NAMED EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE. THE OTHER VICE-PRESIDENTS WILL BE CAMIL SAMSON, LEADER OF THE PROVINCIAL SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY, PIERRE BRODEUR, OF THE QUEBEC-CANADA ASSOCIATION, AND ALEX PATTERSON OF THE POSITIVE ACTION COMMITTEE.

3. THE PRE-REFERENDUM COMMITTEE'S ROLE WILL BE LIMITED TO COORDINATING FEDERALIST FORCES IN THE PERIOD PRECEDING THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN (HENCE "PRE-REFERENDUM"). IT WILL NOT SERVE AS ONE OF THE UMBRELLA COMMITTEES PRESCRIBED IN THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM LAW. MASSE, WHO HAD SERVED AS A SORT OF ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE UNTIL CASTONGUAY'S ELECTION EMPHASIZED THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE A PURELY COORDINATING ROLE AND WILL NOT PROPOSE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS OR POSIT "THIRD OPTIONS," A RESPONSIBILITY WHICH HE SAID RESTS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CASTONGUAY'S SELECTION COMES AS NO SURPRISE, IT MUST NEVERTHELESS BE COMFORTING TO THE PROVINCIAL LIBERALS TO HAVE ONE OF THEIR OWN HEADING UP THE PRE-REFERENDUM GROUP. AS WE MENTIONED IN REFTTEL, THE LIBERALS HAVE BEEN NERVOUS ABOUT LOSING CONTROL OF THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN TO ANOTHER FEDERALIST GROUP; THE SELECTION OF PARTY STALWART CASTONGUAY IS PRESUMABLY QUITE REASSURING. BOSWELL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFERENDUMS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978QUEBEC00010
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780025-0596
Format: TEL
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780155/aaaabucz.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7cbcf2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3762489
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CASTONGUAY TO HEAD PRE-REFERENDUM COMMITTEE
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7cbcf2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014